

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-20, 22, 24 and 26-28 are currently amended, and claims 29-44 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-44 are pending.

Claims 1-8, 10, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kitamura (US 6,418,041). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a housing adapted to be mounted to the bicycle, and a regulator supported by the housing to receive signals from a power supply. The office action refers to Kitamura's control panel (20) as a housing and voltage regulator (43) as the recited regulator. However, voltage regulator (43) is part of power supply (27) which, as stated at column 4, lines 47-51 of the Kitamura patent, is housed within control box (31). Thus, voltage regulator (43) is not supported by control panel (housing) (20) as required by claim 1. Furthermore, there is no output on control panel (housing) (20) that provides regulated signals from regulator (43) to other components external to control panel (20). In any event, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the output has a first external terminal that provides power to a first electrical bicycle component and a separate second external terminal that provides separate power to a second electrical bicycle component. Kitamura neither discloses nor suggests this feature.

As additional matters, it is submitted that there is no basis to conclude that the signals provided to shift controller (9) and lamp controller (10a) have physically different power characteristics as recited in claim 2. In fact, the same signal is provided to both components from regulator (43). Also, Kitamura's components do not comprises a radio, a cell phone charger and a light (three components) as recited in claim 6, there are no convex and concave portions as recited in claim 10, or a mounting member disposed on the housing to detachably mount an electrical bicycle component to the housing (i.e., designed at some time or another to come apart) as recited in claims 7, 8 and 13.

Claims 9, 11-12, 14-18 and 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Copeland (US 5,015,918). This basis for rejection is

respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Furthermore, independent claim 26 has been amended to recite a voltage regulator that provides first and second different voltages, each of which is adapted to power respective first and second electrical bicycle components, and first and second external output terminals disposed on the housing to supply the respective first and second different voltages from the regulator to respective first and second electrical bicycle components external to the housing. Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests this feature, especially since a circuit ground does not power electrical components. That is a function of the source voltage.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite a plurality of mounting members disposed on the housing to directly attach a corresponding plurality of electrical bicycle components to the housing, and an external output terminal disposed on the housing in close proximity to each mounting member to supply regulated signals provided by the regulator to corresponding ones of the plurality of electrical bicycle components mounted to the plurality of mounting members. Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests this feature.

Independent claim 28 has been amended to recite a mounting member adapted to directly mount each one of a plurality of electrical bicycle components to that mounting member, each electrical bicycle component having different signal requirements, and an external output terminal disposed on the housing to supply regulated signals provided by the regulator to each of the plurality of electrical bicycle components when individually mounted to the mounting member. Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests this feature.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

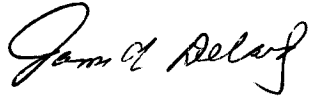
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Respectfully submitted,

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